



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/874,390	06/04/2001	Henrik Clausen	4305/0J425	5094

7590 10/22/2002

DARBY & DARBY P.C.
805 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022

EXAMINER

RAO, MANJUNATH N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1652

DATE MAILED: 10/22/2002 10

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/874,390

Applicant(s)

CLAUSEN ET AL.

Examiner

Manjunath N. Rao, Ph.D.

Art Unit

1652

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 September 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-8, 11 and 14-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5, 9, 10, 12, 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) g.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 1652

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-21 are currently pending in this application.

Priority

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d).

Drawings

Drawings submitted in this application are accepted by the Examiner for examination purposes only.

Sequence Compliance

Applicant is required to comply with the sequence rules by inserting the sequence identification numbers of all sequences recited within the claims and/or specification. It is particularly noted that the neither figures 2 and 3 nor their description in the specification provides SEQ ID NO to the sequences depicted in the figures. See particularly 37 CFR 1.821(d).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 7 is drawn to "A nucleic acid" which reads on the product of nature. Amending the claim to recite "An isolated nucleic acid" would overcome this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 1, 8, 10-21 and claims 2-5 which depend from claim 1 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1, 8, 10-21 recites an isolated nucleic acid, a vector or a cell comprising such nucleic acid, encoding a polypeptide with C2/4GnT activity, meaning Core 2/Core 4 GnT activity or a method of expressing such nucleic acid. Because of the placement of a slash between core 2 and core 4 it is unclear to the Examiner as to whether applicants mean that the encoded polypeptide has Core 2 or Core 4 activity, or Core 2 and Core 4 activity.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 6 is drawn to a nucleic acid comprising nucleotides selected from a group consisting of nucleotides 1-245, nucleotides 246-435 and nucleotides 436-2319 of SEQ ID NO:1 that hybridizes to a nucleic acid under stringent conditions. It is not clear to the Examiner as to which nucleic acid should the above specific nucleic acid fragments of SEQ ID NO:1 hybridize to, rendering the claim indefinite.

Art Unit: 1652

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 21 recite the phrase "β C2/4GnT gene". It is not clear to the Examiner as to whether β C2/4GnT is different from C2/4GnT or whether it is the same. A perusal of the specification does not provide any specific definition or description for β C2/4GnT.

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 11, 14-19, 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for DNA with SEQ ID NO:1 encoding a protein with SEQ ID NO:2 having C2 and C4 GnT activity, does not reasonably provide enablement for any or all such DNA from any or all sources including mutants, variants, recombinants or fragments thereof. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

Factors to be considered in determining whether undue experimentation is required, are summarized in *In re Wands* (858 F.2d 731, 8 USPQ 2d 1400 (Fed. Cir. 1988)) as follows: (1) the quantity of experimentation necessary, (2) the amount of direction or guidance presented, (3) the presence or absence of working examples, (4) the nature of the invention, (5) the state of the prior art, (6) the relative skill of those in the art, (7) the predictability or unpredictability of the art, and (8) the breadth of the claim(s).

Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 11, 14-19, 21 are so broad as to encompass any DNA encoding a polypeptide having a combined C2 and C4 GnT activity, and vectors and host cells comprising such DNAs from any or all sources. The scope of the claims is not commensurate with the enablement provided by the disclosure with regard to the extremely large number of DNA sequences that are broadly encompassed by the claims.

The applicants propose to use the above polynucleotides for a variety of processes including recombinant protein preparation. Since the nucleotide sequence determines the type of protein and the ultimate function of the encoded protein and since only nucleic acids with very high percent homology can be used for recombinant production or as a probe for either identifying mRNA or for screening a cDNA library, changing the nucleotide sequences as proposed by the applicants and/or addition of substantial amount of additional nucleotide sequence unrelated to the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 may not lead to desired function of the polynucleotides. This is because the changes suggested by the applicants will result in an enormous number of nucleotide sequences that may not encode the protein of interest, will hybridize to several unrelated mRNAs instead of hybridizing specifically to mRNA of interest and similarly may hybridize to cDNAs totally unrelated to the cDNA of interest while screening a cDNA library. However, in this case the disclosure is limited to the nucleotide and encoded amino acid sequence of a C2 and C4 GnT enzyme isolated from humans.

While recombinant and mutagenesis techniques are known, it is not routine in the art to screen for multiple substitutions or modifications of nucleotides, as encompassed by the instant claims, and the base changes within a nucleic acid's sequence can be made with a reasonable expectation of success in obtaining the desired activity/utility are limited and the result of such

Art Unit: 1652

modifications is unpredictable. In addition, one skilled in the art would expect any tolerance to modification for a given DNA to diminish with each further and additional modification, e.g. multiple substitutions.

The specification does not support the broad scope of the claims which encompass all modifications and fragments of any DNA encoding a protein having combined C2 and C4 GnT activity because the specification does not establish: (A) regions of the DNA sequence which may be modified without effecting the above mentioned activity/utility; (B) the general tolerance of combined C2 and C4 GnT enzyme encoding DNA sequence to modification and extent of such tolerance; (C) a rational and predictable scheme for modifying any nucleotide in the DNA encoding a polypeptide with combined C2 and C4 GnT activity; and (D) the specification provides insufficient guidance as to which of the essentially infinite possible choices is likely to be successful.

Thus, applicants have not provided sufficient guidance to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to make and use the claimed invention in a manner reasonably correlated with the scope of the claims broadly including any DNA or DNA fragment encoding a polypeptide with combined C2 and C4 GnT activity. The scope of the claims must bear a reasonable correlation with the scope of enablement (*In re Fisher*, 166 USPQ 19 24 (CCPA 1970)). Without sufficient guidance, determination of DNAs having the desired biological characteristics is unpredictable and the experimentation left to those skilled in the art is unnecessarily, and improperly, extensive and undue. See *In re Wands* 858 F.2d 731, 8 USPQ2d 1400 (Fed. Cir, 1988).

Art Unit: 1652

reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. These claims are directed to a genus of DNA molecules including fragments having the limitations of encoding a protein having combined C2 and C4 GnT activity. The specification does not contain any disclosure of the structure of all DNA sequences that have the above activity. The genus of DNAs that comprise these above DNA molecules is a large variable genus with the potentiality of having different structures. Therefore, many structurally unrelated DNAs are encompassed within the scope of these claims, including partial DNA sequences. The specification discloses only a single species of the claimed genus which is insufficient to put one of skill in the art in possession of the attributes and features of all species within the claimed genus. Therefore, one skilled in the art cannot reasonably conclude that the applicant had possession of the claimed invention at the time the instant application was filed.

Applicant is referred to the revised guidelines concerning compliance with the written description requirement of U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, published in the Official Gazette and also available at www.uspto.gov.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 11, 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Adams et al. (GenBank Accession No. AA315469, 4-19-1997) or NCI-CGAP (GenBank Accession No.

Art Unit: 1652

AA583339, 9-8-1997). This rejection is based upon the public availability of printed publications. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 11, 15 of the instant application are drawn to an isolated nucleic acid which encoding combined C2, C4 GnT activity or fragment thereof, wherein the nucleic acid is a DNA, a cDNA, a genomic DNA, hybridizes to SEQ ID NO:1 or nucleotides 436-32319 of SEQ ID NO:1 under highly stringent conditions and a vector and a cell comprising such nucleic acid sequence encoding a polypeptide with combined C2 and C4 GnT activity or fragments of such polypeptide. Adams et al. and NCI-CGAP disclose a nucleotide sequence that is 98.9% and 100% identical to portions of SEQ ID NO:1 respectively, and which encodes fragments of the polypeptide with combined C2 and C4 GnT activity and capable of hybridizing under highly stringent conditions. The references also disclose vectors comprising such nucleotides and cell comprising such vectors. Thus Adams et al. and NCI-CGAP anticipate claims 1-4, 6-8, 11, 15 of this application as written (see enclosed sequence alignments).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5, 9, 10, 12-13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Manjunath N. Rao, Ph.D. whose telephone number is 703-306-5681. The examiner can normally be reached on 7.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m..

Art Unit: 1652

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapura Achutamurthy can be reached on 703-308-3804. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-4242 for regular communications and 703-308-4242 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-0196.

Manjunath N. Rao
October 18, 2002


MANJUNATH RAO
PATENT EXAMINER